

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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STATE PASS ACDA AND NSC; USIA FOR IEU ARNOLD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, NATO  
SUBJECT: ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON -- FINANCIAL TIMES  
MARCH 2 ARTICLE

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE BY REGINALD DALE  
WHICH APPEARED IN THE MARCH 2, 1978, FINANCIAL TIMES.  
BEGIN TEXT: HEADLINE READS: U.S. SET TO BUILD NEUTRON  
BOMB.

THE U.S. IS PREPARING TO ANNOUNCE A DECISION TO GO AHEAD  
WITH PRODUCTION OF THE CONTROVERSIAL NEUTRON BOMB WARHEAD  
FOR DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE, ACCORDING TO SENIOR NATO  
OFFICIALS IN BRUSSELS.

AT THE SAME TIME, WASHINGTON IS EXPECTED OF OFFER TO  
INCLUDE THE WEAPON IN FUTURE ARMS LIMITATION NEGOTIATIONS  
WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN EXCHANGE FOR RUSSIAN CONCESSIONS  
IN OTHER FIELDS.

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THE MOVE COULD CAUSE A FURTHER UPSET IN EAST-WEST RELAT-  
IONS, ALREADY STRAINED BY SOVIET INTERVENTION IN THE HORN  
OF AFRICA AND DELAYS IN REACHING A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS  
LIMITATION AGREEMENT (SALT II).

NATO SOURCES SAY THAT AN AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENT IS MOST  
LIKELY BETWEEN THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ALLIANCE'S NUCLEAR

PLANNING GROUP IN MID-APRIL AND THE MEETING OF DEFENSE  
MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS IN MID-MAY. THE AIM WOULD BE TO  
GET THE ISSUE OUT OF THE WAY BEFORE THE ALLIANCE'S  
WASHINGTON SUMMIT IN LATE MAY.

HITHERTO WASHINGTON HAS HELD BACK ON THE WEAPON IN THE  
HOPE THAT ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES COULD BE PERSUADED TO ASK  
PUBLICLY FOR ITS PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT. YET OTHER  
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS WANT WASHINGTON TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF  
THE POLITICAL ODIUM THAT THE DECISION IS BOUND TO GENERATE.

WASHINGTON IS NOW APPARENTLY COUNTING ON THE SUPPORT OF  
THE U.K. AND WEST GERMANY AND WOULD LIKE TO SECURE THE  
BACKING OF AT LEAST ONE SMALLER EUROPEAN COUNTRY, PERHAPS  
BELGIUM.

THE WARHEAD'S ADVOCATES SAY IT WOULD PINPOINT NUCLEAR  
EXPLOSIONS TO A MUCH SMALLER AREA, LIMIT CIVILIAN  
CASUALTIES AND STRENGTHEN THE WEST. ITS MAIN MILITARY USE  
WOULD BE AGAINST WARSAW PACT TANKS.

NATO SOURCES SAY THERE WOULD BE A PERIOD OF ABOUT TWO  
YEARS BETWEEN THE DECISION TO PRODUCE THE WEAPON AND ITS  
DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE. THIS WOULD PROVIDE TIME TO  
NEGOTIATE WITH MOSCOW.

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THE WEST BELIEVES THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH HAS SCORED  
CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA SUCCESS IN ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
THE WEAPON, HAS NOW OVERPLAYED ITS HAND. PRESIDENT  
BREZHNEV'S RECENT LETTERS TO WESTERN LEADERS WARNING  
THEM NOT TO INTRODUCE THE WARHEAD ARE REGARDED AS COUNTER-  
PRODUCTIVE. THEY HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE WEST TO  
RENOUNCE THE WEAPON WITHOUT GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF  
YIELDING TO SOVIET PRESSURE. END TEXT.  
DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. GLITMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ALLIANCE, TEXT, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780095-0787  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON -- FINANCIAL TIMES MARCH 2 ARTICLE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE BY REGINALD DA  
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